

THE XISHUANGBANNA DECLARATION ON BOTANICAL GARDENS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (16TH JAN)

THE PARTICIPANTS in the

Third Xishuangbanna International Symposium, Botanical Gardens and Climate Change,
held at the Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Yunnan, China,
on January 13-16th, 2014

1. **Recognize** both the growing threat from climate change to global plant biodiversity and the unique position of the world's Botanical Gardens at the interface between scientific research, conservation and public education.
2. **Recognize** also the responsibility of Botanical Gardens for delivering the targets of the CBD's Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC).
3. **Urge** Botanical Gardens to use their individual and collective capabilities to:
 - a. **facilitate** long-term, multi-disciplinary research into the impacts of climate change on plant populations and ecological communities, as well as the reciprocal influence of these communities on climate change;
 - b. **secure** the survival of climate-sensitive species *in situ* in protected natural habitats and *ex situ* in germplasm banks and living collections, ensuring that the full range of genetic diversity is represented, while exploring the role for assisted migration in climate change adaptation;
 - c. **reconsider** existing collection policies in the light of climate change projections and the need for an enhanced role in conservation;
 - d. **educate and involve** visitors in reducing the human contribution to climate change through carbon emissions, and adapting to the changes that are now inevitable, and **demonstrate** the multiple benefits of plant conservation in a changing world; **build** their own capacity for climate change education and **share** educational experiences with other Gardens;
 - e. **engage** political, social, religious, and economic leaders in the development of policies and practices that address the impacts of climate change on plants and society.
4. **Identify** research areas to which all Gardens can contribute including: collecting comprehensive and consistent weather data, monitoring phenological and other responses to climate change, and assessing the vulnerability of local species and communities; **encourage** public involvement in data collection through citizen science projects.
5. **Call** for Botanical Gardens to develop detailed plans for their response to climate change and to engage with their management authorities, funding agencies, sponsors, visitors, local communities, and other stakeholders to ensure that these plans are carried out.
6. **Recommend** the further development of mechanisms for sharing data among Botanical Gardens, and with other potential users, with clear criteria and standards to ensure quality, reliability, and transparency.
7. **Acknowledge** that many Botanical Gardens are already making significant contributions in all these areas, but identify the urgent need to scale up existing activities and make more use of the opportunities presented by national, regional, and global networks of Gardens.
8. **Support** the establishment of new Botanical Gardens, or extensions of existing ones, in areas with climatic and biogeographical characteristics that are under-represented in the existing network.
9. **Ask also** that Botanical Gardens 'live the message' and convey it to others by training their own staff and implementing appropriate sustainability policies in areas under their control.